

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 PRS-01 EB-03 IO-03 L-01 IGA-01 CU-02 /042 W

----- 039875

R 151706Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5659

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T MONROVIA 2682

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: OVIP (DAVIS, NATHANIEL) PFOR, XA, LI

SUBJECT: ASST SECTY DAVIS MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS

REF: MONROVIA 2528

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS CALLED ON LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS ON MAY 8. DISCUSSION PRIMARILY COVERED TOPICS RAISED BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT PREVIOUS DAY (REFTEL) WITH DENNIS EXPANDING ON SOME AND GOING INTO MORE DETAIL ON OTHERS. DENNIS' MAIN CONCERNS APPEARED TO BE SOUTHERN AFRICA, USG ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA, CONTINUED U.S. INVESTMENT IN LIBERIA AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIBERIA AND THE U.S.

2. ASST SECTY DAVIS MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS FOR MORE THAN ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS ON MAY 8. ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING WERE ASST. FOREIGN MINISTER PADMORE, ASST. FOREIGN MINISTER DUNN, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE HARMON, AMBASSADOR MANFULL, DCM BEAN AND USAID DIRECTOR SIEGEL. THE MEETING WAS WARM, FRIENDLY AND FRANK. SUBJECTS DIS-
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CUSSED WERE PRIMARILY THOSE RAISED BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT

ON THE PREVIOUS DAY (REFTEL) WITH DENNIS BEING MORE SPECIFIC THAN TOLBERT HAD BEEN ON SOME ITEMS. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES MAJOR ITEMS OF DISCUSSION.

3. SOUTHERN AFRICA: DENNIS MADE EXTENSIVE PLEA FOR USG UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY NAMIBIA, ZIMBAWE AND APARTHEID. SAID HOPE THAT THESE PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED WITHOUT USE OF FORCE AND URGED THAT USG PUT GREATER PRESSURE ON THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS TO BRING ABOUT THE DESIRED CHANGES. DAVIS OUTLINED USG POLICIES AND CONCERNS RELATIVE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ASSURED DENNIS THAT OUR DESIRES WERE CONSONANT WITH THOSE OF LIBERIA.

4. U.S. ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA: DENNIS THANKED DAVIS FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE (ECONOMIS, MILITARY AND PEACE CORPS) RECEIVED TO DATE AND EXPRESSED HOPE IT WOULD BE CONTINUED, AND IMPLIED SEVERAL TIMES GOL'S DESIRE FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE. DAVIS EXPLAINED CONSTRAINTS ON USG AID ACTIVITIES AND POINTED OUT AFRICA GENERALLY AND LIBERIA PARTICULARLY HAS DONE AND CONTINUES TO DO WELL IN TERMS OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED DESPITE THESE CONSTRAINTS. SPECIFICALLY DENNIS REQUESTED THAT PL 480 SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM NOT RPT NOT BE TERMINATED. DAVIS POINTED OUT TERMINATION BEING EFFECTED BECAUSE GOL FAILED TO MEET ITS OBLIGATION TO PAY LOCAL COSTS OF PROGRAM. DENNIS CLAIMED TO NOT HAVE KNOWN THIS, INDICATED IT TOO LATE SECURE REQUIRED FUNDS (\$40,000) FROM CURRENT YEARS BUDGET. THEN ASKED FOR UNILATERAL EXTENSION FOR CURRENT YEAR WHILE HE ATTEMPTED OBTAIN FUNDS FOR SUBSEQUENT BUDGET YEARS. DAVID INDICATED THIS WAS PROBABLY NOT POSSIBLE UNDER TERMS OUR LEGISLATION BUT WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER WHEN HE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON.

DAVIS ASKED THAT USG ASSISTANCE TO JFK MEDICAL CENTER BE EXTENDED UNTIL 1980 RATHER THAN BEING PHASED OUT IN 1976 AS CURRENTLY PLANNED. DAVIS MADE NO COMMITMENT BUT SAID REQUEST WOULD BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION AS USAID FUTURE PLANNING PROCEEDS.

DENNIS EXPRESSED SOME GOL DISSATISFACTION OVER BUREAU-
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CRATIC DELAYS IN USAID PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WHICH IN TURN INCREASED ACTUAL COST AS COMPARED WITH PLANNED COST BECAUSE OF INFLATION, ETC. DAVIS REMINDED DENNIS THAT THERE ARE SOME PROCEDURES WHICH MAY CAUSE DELAY WHICH ARE REQUIRED BY LAW. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL INTEREST IN ELIMINATING ANY UNNECESSARY DELAYS. SUGGESTED THAT USAID DIRECTOR AND GOL MINISTER PLANNING GET TOGETHER, DEFINE PROBLEMS AND REPORT TO HIM. DAVIS SAID HE WOULD TAKE

PERSONAL INTEREST IN RESOLVING THEM.

5. U.S. INVESTMENT IN LIBERIA: DENNIS EXPRESSED HOPE U.S. INVESTORS WOULD CONTINUE TO INVEST IN LIBERIA. CITED OPEN DOOR POLICY, STABLE GOVERNMENT, ETC. AS REASON INVESTORS SHOULD BE ATTRACTED. LIBERIA. ALLUDED TO RUMOR (PREVIOUSLY HEARD BY EMBASSY AND, SO WE THOUGHT, QUASHED) THAT STATE DEPT WAS ACTIVELY DISCOURAGING U.S. FIRMS FROM INVESTING IN LIBERIA. DAVIS ASSURED DENNIS THAT NOT ONLY WERE WE NOT DISCOURAGING U.S. INVESTORS BUT WERE DOING ALL WE COULD TO ENCOURAGE THEM.

6. U.S. - LIBERIA SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP. DENNIS CITED THE USUAL HISTORICAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S. AND LIBERIA. EXPRESSED HOPE THIS RELATIONSHIP WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW. IMPLIED THAT FROM THIS RELATIONSHIP THERE SHOULD FLOW SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BY USG FOR LIBERIA'S PROBLEMS AND ASPIRATIONS, PARTICULARLY NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. SUGGESTED LIBERIA ONLY "REAL FRIEND" U.S. HAS IN AFRICA. DAVIS ACKNOWLEDGED EXISTENCE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP AND INDICATED THIS FACTOR ALWAYS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN OUR DEALING WITH LIBERIA.

7. UNITED STATES EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL FOUNDATION IN LIBERIA (USECF/L): DAVIS DESCRIBED THE PROBLEMS WE ARE HAVING WITH THE FUNDING OF USECF/L AND EXPRESSED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOL'S DISSATISFACTION WITH CURRENT USECF/L OPERATIONS. SUGGESTED THAT, IN KEEPING WITH DISCUSSIONS HELD IN WASHINGTON IN JUNE 1973, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF GOL WOULD GIVE US ITS VIEWS ON HOW USECF/L PROGRAM COULD BEST BE RESHAPED. DENNIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOL DESIRED REVAMP PROGRAM. SUGGESTED WE JOINTLY DEVELOP REVISED PROGRAM.

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ASST. MINISTER DUNN, DCM BEAN AND USECF/L EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBINSON WERE DIRECTED TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS FOR GOL CONSIDERATION. (IT WAS NOTED THAT THE THREE MEN WOULD NOT BEGIN THEIR DELIBERATIONS UNTIL MID-JUNE WHEN ROBINSON RETURNS FROM HOME LEAVE.

8. COMMENT. THE MEETING WENT WELL. DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE IN A WARM, FRIENDLY AND FRANK ATMOSPHERE. DAVIS AND DENNIS TOOK THE MEASURE OF EACH OTHER AND EACH APPEARED POSITIVELY IMPRESSED WITH THE OTHER. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER DENNIS RECEIVED THE FULL IMPORT OF THE MESSAGE DAVIS WAS CONVEYING. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED.
MANFULL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MONROV02682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750171-1177
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750549/aaaabsjz.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MONROVIA 2528
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASST SECTY DAVIS MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, XA, LI, (DAVIS, NATHANIEL), (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R), (DENNIS, WILLIAM E)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006